

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system for routing instant messaging (IM) messages and short message service (SMS) messages within a communication network, the system comprising:

a first network element including a first destination parser module operative to analyze ~~first~~ destination data of an SMS message to determine if the ~~first~~ destination data of the SMS message is a telephone number and, if the ~~first~~ destination data of the SMS message is not a telephone number, processing the SMS message for transmission through a gateway for a data network; and,

a second network element including a second destination parser module operative to analyze ~~second~~ destination data of an IM message to determine if the ~~second~~ destination data of the IM message is an e-mail address and, if the ~~second~~ destination data of the IM message is not an e-mail address, processing the IM message for transmission through a gateway for a wireless network.

2. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first network element is a switching element.

3. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the switching element is a mobile switching center.

4. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second network element is a router.

5. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first network element further includes a protocol converter operative to process the first message for transmission through the gateway for the data network.

6. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second network element further comprises a protocol converter for processing the IM message for transmission through the gateway for the wireless network.
7. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first network element is operative to process the SMS message for transmission through the wireless network if the destination data of the SMS message is a telephone number.
8. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second network element is operative to process the IM message for transmission through the data network if the ~~second~~ destination data of the SMS message is an e-mail address.
9. (Original) A method for handling instant messaging (IM) messages and short message service (SMS) messages within a communication network, the method comprising steps of:
- receiving an SMS message having destination data included therein;
 - analyzing the destination data to determine if the destination data is a telephone number; and,
 - processing the SMS message for transmission through a gateway for a data network if the destination data is not a telephone number.
10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 9 further comprising:
- processing the SMS message for transmission through a gateway for a wireless network if the destination data is a telephone number.

11. (Original) A method for routing instant messaging (IM) messages and short message service (SMS) messages within a communication network, the method comprising steps of:

- receiving an IM message having destination data included within;
- analyzing the destination data to determine if the destination data is an e-mail address; and,
- processing the IM message for transmission through a gateway for a wireless network if the destination data is not an e-mail address.

12. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 11 further comprising:

- processing the IM message for transmission through a gateway for a data network if the destination data is an e-mail address.

13. (Original) A system for handling instant messaging (IM) messages and short message service (SMS) messages within a communication network, the system comprising:

- means for receiving an SMS message having destination data included therein;
- means for analyzing the destination data to determine if the destination data is a telephone number; and,
- means for processing the SMS message for transmission through a gateway for a data network if the destination data is not a telephone number.

14. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in ~~claim 9~~ claim 13 further comprising means for processing the SMS message for transmission through a gateway for a wireless network if the destination data is a telephone number.

15. (Original) A system for routing instant messaging (IM) messages and short message service (SMS) messages within a communication network, the system comprising:

means for receiving an IM message having destination data included within;

means for analyzing the destination data to determine if the destination data is an e-mail address; and,

means for processing the IM message for transmission through a gateway for a wireless network if the destination data is not an e-mail address.

16. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in ~~claim 44~~ claim 15 further comprising means for processing the IM message for transmission through a gateway for a data network if the destination data is an e-mail address.

17. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first network element is operative to access a subscriber database to determine whether a user subscribes to a service provided by the first network element.

18. (New) The method as set forth in claim 9 further comprising determining whether a user subscribes to a service for transmitting the SMS message through a gateway for a data network.